THE

Theatrical Observer;

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice."—*Othello.*

No. 6991. *TUESDAY, May* 21, 1844. *Price* 1*d.*

"The Play's the thing."—Ask for *Thomas's Observer.*

HAYMARKET THEATRE.

This evening, *The Rivals, Used Up,* and *The Absentee,* will be performed here.

The Prize Comedy.—The committee appointed by Mr. Webster, to award the prize of 500*l.*, for the best prose comedy illustrative of modern British manners and customs, concluded their labours on Saturday, their twentieth meeting, by unanimously adopting the piece entitled *Quid pro Quo, or the Day of Dupes.* The title implies rather a lively and bustling affair than a comedy of the romantic or philosophic school, and we understand it is one well adapted to the company of the "little theatre in the Haymarket." Of the authorship of this production, we do not know that we are at liberty to say more at present than that it is by a lady, and one who is by no means unknown to literary fame. As this is rather a novel event in the history of dramatic literature, a few particulars of the mode of proceeding may not be uninteresting, particularly to the candidates and their friends. It appears that the committee, consisting of eight members, held their first meeting on the 3rd of February, when ninety-eight comedies were submitted to them by Mr. Webster, the lessee, and donor of the prize. The first matter for consideration was how to get through this enormous mass of manuscripts in any reasonable time, with due regard to the interests of all parties. Eventually it was determined that the committee should meet on Wednesdays and Saturdays, three to be a quorum, except for the final decision, when the full committee must attend; that a certain number of manuscripts should be sent to each member, who should report from time to time of the merits of one or more of them at meetings of the committee, recommending or not, that they be reserved for further consideration, and stating reasons and referring to passages in suppert of such recommendation. These recommendations, in most instances, were so clearly supported in the manner described, that they were acceded to by the committee; in a few instances, however, the reverse was the case, and a comedy reserved for consideration contrary to the opinion of the gentleman, who first reported unfavorably of it. The reserved comedies (which, in all, amounted to seventeen out of the ninety-seven), were then circulated among other members of the committee; and being again considered upon their reports, were laid aside, or again reserved for final decision. No comedy which had been first reserved, however, was laid aside, except upon the recommendation of two members, and sufficient proof being offered to the committee of its evident inferiority to others reserved.

The seventeen were thus reduced to about five or six, which, we

E. & J. Thomas, Printers. 26, *Russell Court, Covent Garden.*

believe, were read by almost every member of the committee, and were then read before the committee at its sittings, until at last, being severally found less eligible than *Quid pro Quo*, they were successively laid aside, and the play named unanimously adopted. The award, as appears by the advertisement, was signed by all the existing members of the committee. One gentleman of the number originally appointed having, from want of time to give his attendance, resigned at an early period of the business.

Mr. F. Eames has been appointed to succeed Mr. Loder, as leader of the band at the Princess's Theatre.

Fashionable Lounges.

To the Editor of The Theatrical Observer,

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—Just wish to say a word—beg pardon, hope I don't intrude—but will you excuse me—I have to mention that I've arranged so as to rub shoulders with my friends and the fashionable world at one or other of the *Grand Lounges* about town :—

Monday, stroll to MADAME TUSSAUD'S splendid Exhibition, Golden Corinthian Saloon, Baker-st., Portman-sq., to view *The Shrine of Napoleon, or Golden Chamber*, containing the Camp-Bed on which he died in exile—splendid rooms fitted for the purpose—the magnificent Car of the King of Rome—the Coronation Robes of the Emperor and Josephine—the original full-length Picture of Napoleon, by Lefevre—the celebrated Military Carriage, taken at Waterloo, &c.—crowded daily.

Tuesday, examine the extraordinary Model of Venice, at the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly, (open daily)—the most surprising work of art ever exhibited, containing a faithful copy of every object, however minute, that the interesting city of Venice presents—102 churches, 122 towers, 340 bridges, 135 large palaces, 927 smaller palaces, 471 canals, and 18,479 houses are represented in the model.—Open from 10 in the morning till 10 at night, with brilliant effects of sunshine produced by a novel artificial light of wonderful intensity.—Admission 1s.

Must inform your readers that there will be a Grand Bal Masque given at Covent Garden Theatre, on Monday, May 27th., under most distinguished patronage, and upon a scale of splendour hitherto unequalled. The orchestra will be composed of Mr. Weippert's celebrated band of seventy first-rate artistes, and for the better arrangement of the dances six masters of ceremony have been appointed. There will only be a limited number of tickets (price 10s. 6d.) issued.

Wednesday, I am to be found at the *Chinese Collection*, Hyde Park Corner. It consists of objects exclusively Chinese, comprising upwards of 50 figures as large as life, in their native costume, from the highest mandarin to the mechanic; and replete with articles illustrative of their manufactures, habits, and domestic arrangements. Also many thousand specimens, both in Natural History and Miscellaneous Curiosities.

Why should the people of England patronize PERRING? Because he has every wish to improve the *heads* of the Nation. His Velvet Hats at 12s., his best Beavers at a Guinea, and Travelling Caps at 5s. 6d., *crown* half London.—Cecil House, 85, Strand, and 251, Regent Street.

Talk of Phrenology—if you wish to find a Pericranium fully developed, visit the GARRICK'S HEAD, Bow Street,—where you will find conviviality, risibility, and choice spirits fully displayed—the celebrated Judge and Jury every night—a select Concert—a Dinner, fit for the *élite*, 1s,—and Bed and Breakfast, half-a-crown—surprising!

Pa, (said young Paulina the other day) did Macbeth take some of GRIMSTONE'S EYE SNUFF when he saw the *invisible* dagger? Quite different my dear says our doctor, for it takes away all ghostly ideas—cures the headach—dispels nervousness—is an antidote to deafness, and even makes the Queen's crown sit lightly on her head!—Grimstone's Eye Snuff Manufactury, 434, Oxford Street.

Quite surprised at my son Paul's appearance—looked "the very pink of fashion and the mould of form,"—told me he had been to BURCH & LUCAS, Tailors, 52, King William Street, City, where clothes can be purchased, elegant, excellent, and cheap,—must patronise them!

Saturday, I examine MISS LINWOOD'S curious Needle Work, Leicester-square—lately added other beautiful specimens of her art.—But I intrude—beg pardon—Your's &c.—PAUL PRY.

Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening, (77th Time) a Grand Opera, in 3 acts, called The

Bohemian Girl.

Count Arnheim, (*Governor of Presberg*) Mr BORRANI,
Florestein, Mr HUDSON, Thaddeus, (*a proscribed Pole*) Mr HARRISON
Devilshoof, (*Chief of the Gipsy Tribe*) Mr H. HORNCASTLE,
Captain of the Guard, Mr HOWELL, Officer, Mr BINGE.
Arline, Miss RAINFORTH,
Buda, Mrs PAYNE, Queen of the Gipsies, Miss BETTS.

In the course of the Evening,

Mr. HARLEY

Will sing his Comic Medley,

The Great Mogul & the Blue Bottle.

After which the Drama of

CLARI:

OR, THE MAID OF MILAN,

The Duke Vivaldi, Mr W. WEST,
Jocoso, Mr HUDSON, Nimpedo, Mr MEADOWS,
Rolamo, (*the father of Clari*) Mr COOPER,
Nicolo..Mr W. H. PAYNE, Geronio..Mr T. RIDGWAY,
Page..Miss KENDALL,
Clari, Miss RAINFORTH, who will sing "*Home, Sweet Home.*"
Vespina, Mrs WATSON, (*her first appearance,*)
In which she will sing, "*Little Love is a Mischievous Boy.*"
Fidalma, Mrs TAYLEURE, Ninetta, Miss BETTS.

Characters in the Episode.

Nobleman, Mr BINGE, Pelegrino, Mr SELBY,
Wife of Pelegrino..Miss SOMERVILLE, Leoda..Miss COLLETT.

To conclude with, a Ballet Divertissement, called The

Fete de Terpsichore.

Introducing the following Dances:

PAS DE TROIS,

By Miss C. WEBSTER, Mr DELFERIER, & Madame GIUBILEI.

PAS DES DAMES,

Mesdames Hunt, Barnet, Wright, Reed, &c.

LA GUARACHA,

By Miss CLARA WEBSTER.

A PAS SEUL, by Miss A. PAYNE.

Celebrated Pas Burlesque,

By Mr W. H. PAYNE and Mr T. RIDGWAY.

Galopade by the Corps de Ballet.

Theatre Royal, Lyceum.

This Evening (2nd Time) a New Comedietta, called

The White Feather.

Colonel Preville, Mr CRAVEN, Capt. Henry Duval, Mr F. VINING,
Quarter-Master, Mr FREEBORN, Adjutant, Mr YARNOLD,
Cadet, Mr J. COLLIER, Officers, Messrs. Brady and King.
Madame Preville, Miss FAIRBROTHER, Amy, Miss WOOLGAR.

After which, the Farce of

MY WIFE'S OUT.

Mr Scumble..Mr KEELEY, Mr Augustus Dobbs..Mr A. WIGAN,
Mrs Scumble, Miss E. CHAPLIN, Betty, Mrs KEELEY.

To be followed by a new Comic Drama, entitled The

LOVE BIRDS.

Prince Frederick..Miss Fortescue,
Baron Hanslem, Mr R. Younge, Fritz, Mr F. Matthews,
The Duchess of Heirenstein.. Mrs Woollidge,
The Countess Adelaide..Miss Fairbrother,
Marianne,.. Mrs Usher, Helen....Miss Grove,
The Lady Blanche .Miss Ellen Chaplin,
Geraldine....Miss Maison, Bertha.... Miss James.

To which will be added, an Apropos-Bagatelle, in One Act, called

POLKAMANIA

Mr Dorrington..Mr F. MATTHEWS,
Laura..Miss WOOLGAR, Susan..Mrs KEELEY,
Jemmy..Mr KEELEY.
Adolphus Merton..... Mr A. WIGAN.

To conclude with a Romantic Extravaganza called

OPEN SESAME!

FAIRY POLICE.

The Commissioner..... Mrs A. WIGAN,
The Inspector...Miss S. TURNER,

BAGDADIANS.

Ali Baba..Mr F. MATHEWS, Ganem..Miss E. CHAPLIN,
Cassim..Mr TURNER, O'Mustapha..Mr A. WIGAN,
Haroun....Mr YARNOLD, Abdallah....Miss FAIRBROTHER,
Hassarac..Mr KEELEY,

IMMORALS.——Orchobrand....Mr R. YOUNGE

THE WEAKER VESSELS.

Cogia.. ....Miss WOOLGAR, Zaine.....Mrs WOOLLIDGE,
Zelie..Miss JAMES, Morgiana..Mrs KEELEY.

Printed and Published, every Morning, by E. & J. Thomas, 26, Russell Court, Brydges Street, Covent Garden.